forest lands in their names. However, for purposes other than non-forest purposes, forest land can be assigned to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation wholly owned, managed or controlled by concerned State/Union Territory Government and/ or Central Government. For assigning forest land for such purposes by way of lease or otherwise to any person or to any authority, corporation, agency or. any other organisation not owned, managed or controlled by Government, prior approval of the Government of India is required as per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. For diversion of forest land for any non-forest purpose to both Government as well as non-Government agencies, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the same Act. Although, there is no ceiling to the extent of such diversion each case of diversion of forest land is examined carefully after ascertaining nonavailability of non forest land and taking into account the likely adverse impact of diversion on the environment including flora and fauna and ensuring that the demand for the forest area is the barest minimum. Each case of diversion of forest land is scrutinized and recommended by the concerned State/ Union Territory Government before its submission for approval to the Central Government. While according approval, appropriate safeguards, including carrying out of compensatory afforestation, are stipulated to compensate for the diversion of forest area.

(d) and (e) Limits and conditions of holding of agricultural lands by the companies will vary from State to State and will be governed by the relevant land related Acts and Rules of the concerned State.

गुजरात के उद्योगों को भूमि का आवंटन

2429. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ऐसे उद्योगों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जिन्हें गुजरात के कच्छ के जंगलों में अभयारण्य हेतु सुरक्षित रखी गई जमीन उद्योग लगाने हेतु दे दी गई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि ऐसे उद्योगों को स्थापित करने से पर्यावरण को नुकसान होगा;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस मामले को राज्य सरकार के साथ उठाया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस पर राज्य सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन [illegible] के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Illegal Trade of Animal Skins

2430. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal trade in animals' skins is flourishing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the laws to curb illegal trade are ineffective and obsolete;

(c) if so, the number of cases of illegal trade-in animal skins which came to the notice of Government during the last one year;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection and action taken as per law; and

(e) what -further amendments Government propose to take to make the law more meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are effective in

curbing the illegal trade in wild animals and animal articles in India. However, some cases of attempted illegal trade in animal skins have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) The number of cases of attempted illegal trade reported by the four Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and the persons arrested during 1994 are as follows:—

Centre	No. of Cases detected	No. of persons arrested
Calcutta	4	Nil
Bombay	5	Nil
Delhi	3	3
Madras	16	Nil

Action has been initiated against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws.

(e) At present there is no proposal to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

'Findings of the C.P.C.B. on Toxic Flames'

2431. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, following the deaths of some persons due to toxic flames from burning scrap in a residential colony in Delhi, a team of the Central Pollution Control Board, led by Dr. Dilip Biswas, investigated the incident;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the team and the recommendations made; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board has conducted an investigation into the toxic gas discharge at Kardampuri, East Delhi. According to the report, toxic fumes were produced during early morning hours of 13th November, 1994 and the presence of volatile compounds of selenium, cadmium, lead, zinc, iron and oxides of nitrogen in the toxic gas had been identified. The presence of cyanide and sulphates is likely to have aggravated the toxicity of the discharged gas. It is apprehended that the toxic gas fumes were produced during the crude method of refining/recovery of metals from metalic scrap / powders by a scrap dealer.

The Central Pollution Control Board team led by their Chairman visited the site and adjoining affected areas. Samples of soil, deposition scratch, raw material, leachates were taken and analysed to ascertain the source and likely composition of the gas discharged.

(c) Central Government have asked the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Central Pollution Control Board to lake actions urgently which include the following:—

(i) To prohibit the indiscriminate burning of hazardous wastes in the open.

(ii) To prohibit storage and handling of hazardous substances in unauthorised places.

(iii) To identify local persons in communities and entrust with tiie responsibility of ensuring that such practices are not permitted; and

(iv) To urgently identify sites for disposal of hazardous wastes after conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Demand of Tiger-bone products

2432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the World Wildlife Fund,